

What is claimed is:

1 1. An information processing apparatus used by a plurality  
2 of different operators or operator groups, comprising:  
3 a form display unit operable to display a form together  
4 with information to be processed;  
5 an identification information reception unit  
6 operable to receive identification information from a  
7 current operator, while the form is being displayed  
8 together with the information;  
9 an operator identification unit operable to judge  
10 whether or not the received identification information  
11 identifies a specific operator or operator group; and  
12 a display change unit operable to make a specific  
13 display item which the specific operator or operator group  
14 is permitted to operate, appear on the displayed form  
15 without changing the displayed information, when the  
16 operator identification unit judges in the affirmative.

1 2. The information processing apparatus of Claim 1,  
2 wherein when the operator identification unit judges  
3 in the affirmative, the display change unit (a) makes the  
4 specific display item appear on the displayed form if the  
5 specific display item is invisible on the displayed form,  
6 and (b) makes the specific display item disappear from  
7 the displayed form if the specific display item is visible

8 on the displayed form.

1 3. The information processing apparatus of Claim 1,  
2 wherein when the operator identification unit judges  
3 in the affirmative, the display change unit further makes,  
4 if a display item which the specific operator or operator  
5 group is prohibited to operate is visible on the displayed  
6 form, the display item disappear from the displayed form.

1 4. The information processing apparatus of Claim 1, further  
2 comprising:

3 a storage unit storing a permission list which shows  
4 all operators or operator groups, including the specific  
5 operator or operator group, that are permitted to operate  
6 the specific display item,

7 wherein the operator identification unit identifies  
8 an operator or operator group from the received  
9 identification information, and

10 the display change unit makes the specific display  
11 item appear on the displayed form, if the identified  
12 operator or operator group is included in the permission  
13 list.

1 5. The information processing apparatus of Claim 1,  
2 wherein the received identification information is

3 a character string, operation sequence information,  
4 biometric information, or a combination thereof, and  
5 the operator identification unit judges in the  
6 affirmative, if the received identification information  
7 matches a specific character string, specific operation  
8 sequence information, specific biometric information, or  
9 a combination thereof.

1 6. The information processing apparatus of Claim 1, further  
2 comprising:

3 a storage unit storing form definition information  
4 which defines the form containing the specific display  
5 item,

6 wherein the form display unit displays the form  
7 according to the form definition information, in a state  
8 where a visibility property of the specific display item  
9 is set to invisible, and

10 the display change unit redisplay the form according  
11 to the form definition information, in a state where the  
12 visibility property of the specific display item is set  
13 to visible.

1 7. The information processing apparatus of Claim 1, further  
2 comprising:

3 an acquisition unit operable to acquire form

4 definition information which defines the form containing  
5 the specific display item, from outside the information  
6 processing apparatus,

7 wherein the form display unit displays the form  
8 according to the form definition information, in a state  
9 where a visibility property of the specific display item  
10 is set to invisible, and

11 the display change unit redisplay the form according  
12 to the form definition information, in a state where the  
13 visibility property of the specific display item is set  
14 to visible.

1 8. An information processing system which is used by a  
2 plurality of different operators or operator groups and  
3 comprises a server apparatus and a client apparatus,

4 wherein the server apparatus includes:

5 a form display data transmission unit operable to  
6 transmit first data showing a form to the client apparatus;

7 an identification information receiving unit  
8 operable to receive identification information of a current  
9 operator, from the client apparatus;

10 an operator identification unit operable to judge  
11 whether or not the received identification information  
12 identifies a specific operator or operator group; and

13 a display change data transmission unit operable to

14 transmit second data showing a specific display item which  
15 the specific operator or operator group is permitted to  
16 operate, to the client apparatus, when the operator  
17 identification unit judges in the affirmative, and  
18 the client apparatus includes:

19 a form display unit operable to receive the first  
20 data from the server apparatus, and display the form shown  
21 by the first data;

22 an identification information reception unit  
23 operable to receive the identification information from  
24 the current operator while the form is being displayed,  
25 and transmit the identification information to the server  
26 apparatus; and

27 a display change unit operable to receive the second  
28 data from the server apparatus, and make the specific  
29 display item shown by the second data appear on the displayed  
30 form.

1 9. A method of managing an operator change in an information  
2 processing apparatus which is used by a plurality of  
3 different operators or operator groups, comprising:

4 a form display step of displaying a form together  
5 with information to be processed;

6 an identification information reception step of  
7 receiving identification information from a current

8 operator, while the form is being displayed together with  
9 the information;

10 an operator identification step of judging whether  
11 or not the received identification information identifies  
12 a specific operator or operator group; and

13 a display change step of making a specific display  
14 item which the specific operator or operator group is  
15 permitted to operate, appear on the displayed form without  
16 changing the displayed information, when the operator  
17 identification step judges in the affirmative.

1 10. The method of Claim 9,

2 wherein when the operator identification step judges  
3 in the affirmative, the display change step (a) makes the  
4 specific display item appear on the displayed form if the  
5 specific display item is invisible on the displayed form,  
6 and (b) makes the specific display item disappear from  
7 the displayed form if the specific display item is visible  
8 on the displayed form.

1 11. The method of Claim 9,

2 wherein when the operator identification step judges  
3 in the affirmative, the display change step further makes,  
4 if a display item which the specific operator or operator  
5 group is prohibited to operate is visible on the displayed

6 form, the display item disappear from the displayed form.

1 12. The method of Claim 9,

2 wherein the specific display item is associated with  
3 a permission list which shows all operators or operator  
4 groups, including the specific operator or operator group,  
5 that are permitted to operate the specific display item,  
6 the operator identification step identifies an  
7 operator or operator group from the received identification  
8 information, and

9 the display change step makes the specific display  
10 item appear on the displayed form, if the identified  
11 operator or operator group is included in the permission  
12 list.

1 13. A method of managing an operator change in an information  
2 processing system which is used by a plurality of different  
3 operators or operator groups and includes a server  
4 apparatus and a client apparatus, comprising:

5 a form display data transmission step, performed by  
6 the server apparatus, of transmitting first data showing  
7 a form to the client apparatus;

8 an identification information receiving step,  
9 performed by the server apparatus, of receiving  
10 identification information of a current operator from the

11 client apparatus;  
12       an operator identification step, performed by the  
13 server apparatus, of judging whether or not the received  
14 identification information identifies a specific operator  
15 or operator group;  
16       a display change data transmission step, performed  
17 by the server apparatus, of transmitting second data  
18 showing a specific display item which the specific operator  
19 or operator group is permitted to operate, to the client  
20 apparatus, when the operator identification step judges  
21 in the affirmative;  
22       a form display step, performed by the client apparatus,  
23 of receiving the first data from the server apparatus,  
24 and displaying the form shown by the first data;  
25       an identification information reception step,  
26 performed by the client apparatus, of receiving the  
27 identification information from the current operator while  
28 the form is being displayed, and transmitting the  
29 identification information to the server apparatus; and  
30       a display change step, performed by the client  
31 apparatus, of receiving the second data from the server  
32 apparatus, and making the specific display item shown by  
33 the second data appear on the displayed form.

1 14. A computer-executable program for use in an information



2 processing apparatus which is used by a plurality of  
3 different operators or operator groups, comprising codes  
4 for executing the steps of any of Claims 9 to 12.

1 15. A computer-executable program for use in an information  
2 processing system which is used by a plurality of different  
3 operators or operator groups and includes a server  
4 apparatus and a client apparatus, comprising codes for  
5 executing the steps of Claim 13.